

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O R 041430Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2504
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/VOA
HG AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REMAIN FIRM AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS WITH
RED BRIGADES

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1. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) LEADERS MET ON MAY 3 TO WORK OUT A
RESPONSE TO SOCIALIST SECRETARY CRAXI'S PERSISTENT AND MUCH
PUBLICIZED EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORO'S RELEASE BY AN "INDEPENDENT,
HUMANITARIAN GESTURE" SUCH AS THE PARDONING OF SOME EXTREME-LEFT
PRISONERS. CRAXI'S INITIATIVE, REPORTEDLY WORKED OUT IN CLOSE COL-
LABORATION WITH THE MORO FAMILY AND RED BRIGADE DEFENSE LAWYER
GUIZO, HAS BEEN ROUNDLY CRITICIZED BY ALL THE PARTIES AS REQUIRING

UNTHINKABLE CONCESSIONS TO THE TERRORISTS.

2. THE STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 3 BY DC LEADERS DEFLECTS THE PSI INITIATIVE BY AFFIRMING THAT IT IS NOT WITHIN THE DC'S COMPETENCE TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS SUCH AS AMNESTY THAT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT CAN PROPOSE AND THE STATE (LEONE) GRANT. MAKING CLEAR THAT THE DC REMAINS FIRM ON THE NEED TO RESPECT THE LAW AND EXCLUDE ANY NEGOTIATION WITH THE RED BRIGADES, THE DC REQUESTS THE GOVERNMENT ("NOT TO LEAVE ANY COURSE UNTRIED") TO CONSIDER THE CRAXI PROPOSAL IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER PARTIES. THE DC STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT ONLY IF MORO WERE RELEASED AND THE TERRORISTS ABANDON THEIR USE OF VIOLENCE, THE REPUBLIC COULD FIND "FORMS OF GENEROSITY AND CLEMENCY CONSISTENT WITH THE NORMS AND IDEALS OF THE CONSTITUTION."

3. IN A STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT ISSUED BY ANDREOTTI'S OFFICE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD STUDY THE PSI PROPOSAL IN A MEETING OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SECURITY. IT REAFFIRMED, HOWEVER, ITS RESOLUTE POLICY AGAINST NEGOTIATIONS BY RULING OUT "EVEN HYPOTHESIZING THE SLIGHTEST EXCEPTION TO THE LAWS OF THE STATE." NOR WOULD THE GOVERNMENT FORGET ITS "MORAL DUTY" TOWARDS THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF TERRORIST "CRIMINALS."

4. IN RESPONSE TO A RADICAL PARTY REQUEST FOR A PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF THE MORO CASE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT AGAIN TO PARLIAMENT. THE DATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE MAY 5 CABINET MEETING, BUT WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED IT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE DC DIRECTORATE MEETING CONVENED FOR MAY 9.

5. COMMENT: IN A CONVERSATION MAY 3 WITH THE AMBASSADOR AT ZACCAGNINI'S REQUEST, PISANU (HEAD OF THE DC SECRETARIAT) STRESSED THE DC'S UNANIMITY AND FIRMNESS IN REFUSING ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE RED BRIGADES. HE CALLED THE CRAXI PROPOSAL A SERIOUS ERROR WHICH HAD LEFT THE PSI POLITICALLY ISOLATED IN ADDITION TO COMPLICATING HANDLING OF THE MORO CASE. IN ORDER TO PREVENT SERIOUS RIFTS IN THE GOVERNING MAJORITY (THE PSI AND PRI WERE GOING AFTER EACH OTHER LIKE CATS AND DOGS), THE DC FELT IT HAD TO FIND SOME FACE-SAVING WAY TO DEFLECT CRAXI'S PROPOSAL AND NOT REJECT IT OUTRIGHT. CRAXI, HE SAID, APPEARED HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH THE DC STATEMENT. PISANU ALSO SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO INTERNAL NEED FOR FURTHER PARTY DEBATE ON THE MORO CASE, IT WAS AGREED TO CONVENE THE DIRECTORATE TO MEET ANY POSSIBLE CRITICISM (SUCH AS THAT OF THE MORO FAMILY WHICH HAS DEMANDED A NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION). HE NOTED THAT THE DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR NEXT WEEK TO AVOID AN IMPRESSION OF URGENCY OR RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURE. GARDNER

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